The photograph in HF Happenings 514 was taken in Fauresmith in the southern Free State. Fauresmith is the only town in South Africa, and one of only three in the world, where the railway line runs down the centre of the main road. The other two towns are Tula Homa in Tennessee, USA and in Wycheproof, Victoria, Australia.

Will Kosovo be our next DXCC Entity?

Several sources are reporting that Kosovo, former province of Serbia, shall receive its full sovereignty in September, almost four and a half years after obtaining its independence. Stay tuned!

SARL 80 m Club Championship, CW

A series of short weekday evening contests on 80 m based around competition between affiliated radio clubs. Individual scores in every event count towards a radio club's overall score so it is important for the club to get members to come on in as many sessions and as many modes as possible.

The contest starts at 17:30 UTC (19:30 CAT) and ends at 18:30 UTC (20:30 CAT) on Wednesday 25 July 2012. The exchange is a RST and a consecutive serial number starting at 001. CW activity between 3 510 and 3 560 kHz and each QSO is worth one (1) point.

Each session is a contest in its own right, and log entries must be submitted to zs4bfn@netactive.co.za within seven (7) days of the contest. That would be by 23:59:59 CAT 1 August 2012.

SARL HF Phone Contest

The aim of the HF Contests is for participants to contact as many amateurs in Southern Africa (General Rules para 1.b.) as possible on 20, 40 and 80 metres. The SARL HF Phone contest will be run from 13:00 to 16:30 UTC [15:00 to 18:30 CAT] on Sunday 5 August with activity on 14 125 to 14 300 kHz; 7 060 to 7 100 and 7 130 to 7 200 kHz and 3 600 to 3 650 and 3 700 to 3 800 kHz.

Participation can be as a a) Single Operator Single Band; b) Single Operator All Band; c) Multi Operator Single Band or d) Multi Operator All Band. Individual competitors and club stations are encouraged to compete. The exchange is a RS report and a consecutive serial number starting at 001.

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?

Each phone QSO counts 1 point. Count two points for each area (see below) on each band and count 2 points for each station contacted on all three bands.

The areas are - Area 1: ZS1 Western Cape; Area 2: ZS2 Eastern Cape; Area 3: ZS3 Northern Cape; Area 4: ZS4 Free State; Area 5: ZS5 KwaZulu-Natal; Area 6: ZS6 Gauteng, Mpumalanga; Limpopo and North West; Area 7: 3B8 Mauritius, 3DA Swaziland, 7P Lesotho, 7Q Malawi, C9 Mozambique, Z2 Zimbabwe, 5R Madagascar, FR Reunion Island and FH Mayotte and Area 8: 9J Zambia, A2 Botswana, D2 Angola, V5 Namibia, ZD9 Gough and Tristan da Cunha Islands, ZS7 Antarctica and ZS8 Marion Island. Contacts with stations outside these areas are allowed, QSO points may be claimed but no zone or three-bander points may be claimed.

Certificates are awarded to the first three places and the highest single band score in each contest. There is also a trophy for the highest combined score in three contests.

Logs must be sent to the Bloemfontein ARC, Box 12104, Fichardt Park, 9324 or by e-mail to zs4bfn@netactive.co.za by Sunday 12 August.

Transverter for 472 kHz band

Roger Lapthorn, G3XBM, has been designing a simpler and less expensive version of his 500 kHz transverter for use with the FT-817.

The new version is still in the bread boarding stage but is fully functional on RX and TX (10 W RF out at 13,8 V). It will work on both 500 kHz and 472 kHz using CW, QRSS, DFCW, WSPR and OPERA. On Saturday evening (21 July) Roger used it to exchange OPERA Op4 reports with PA0WMR (351 km) despite his ERP being only 40 mW.

Information and the schematic of the simple transverter is on his blog at http://g3xbm-qrp.blogspot.co.uk/2012/07/472500khz-transceive-transverter.html

Islands on the Air (IOTA) Contest

The aim of the IOTA Contest is to promote contacts between amateur radio stations in qualifying IOTA island groups and the rest of the world and to encourage expeditions to IOTA islands. The contest happens 12:00 UTC Saturday 28 July to 12:00 UTC Sunday 29 July 2012, the contest always takes place over the last FULL weekend of July. Find all the information at the RSGB IOTA website at http://www.rsgbiota.org/

I had hoped to activate Traffic Island, but the IOTA Committee did not want to accept my application. They said I did not read the rules and there must be water around the island, not asphalt!

Take your Fleas to the Market

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?

July

1 to 6 – Fauresmith Endurance Race
2 to 8 – Mr Price Pro Ballito, Willard Beach
7 – Vodacom Durban July, Greyville Racecourse
6 to 15 – Pick n Pay Knysna Oyster Festival
13 and 14 East Cape Biltong Festival, Somerset East
14 and 15 – IARU HF Championships
16 – Schools open
21 – SARL Winter QRP Contest
22 – Boland ARC 40 m Contest
25 – SARL 80 m Club Contest, CW
28 – Potjie and Mampoer Fees, Stonehaven, Vanderbijlpark
1 July to 31 August – Christmas in July, Sani Mountain Lodge, Lesotho

August

5 – SARL HF Phone Contest
9 – National Women's Day; SARL YL Sprint
10 – School holiday
18 and 19 – International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend
19 – SARL HF Digital Contest
26 – SARL HF CW Contest

If you are attending any events, take your amateur radio with and spread

The Pretoria Amateur Radio Club will be hosting their winter flea market on Saturday 28 July at PMC in Keuning street, Silverton. For more information, or to book a table, phone Almero, ZS6LDP, on 083 938 8955

African DX

Botswana, A2. Arnold, WB6OJB, will be active as A25JB from Botswana between 24 and 31 July. Activity will be on HF bands, 40 to 10 metres using mostly SSB with some CW. QSL direct to his home call sign.

African Islands

Canary Islands, EF8. Operators Manuel, EA8ZS, Marino, EA8DP, Jesus, EA8RY, Tony, EA8AKN, Domingo, EA8CST, Severo, EA8NL, Dunia, EA8MT (YL), Felipe, NP4Z and Luis, EA8AY will be active as EF8U from Gran Canaria Island (AF-004) during the RSGB IOTA Contest (28 and 29 July) as a Multi-Op entry. QSL via
EA8URL. Visit http://www.ea8url.com for more information.

Comoros, D6. It was announced this past week that the D64K DXpedition to Ngazidja (Grande Comore), Comoros Islands (IOTA AF-007), which will be active between 8 and 20 August, has changed their Web page. The following was sent out: "Due to continuing problems with our web platform, we decided to migrate to a new system. Our new web address is http://www.d64k.net
　　　The old .com website will no longer be updated, and every post will be published only on the new site. For real-time news, our twitter account remains unchanged - @d64k. If you need to contact us, our E-mail support is support@d64k.net. We apologise in advance for any confusion that will be created, and we thank you for understanding.....Cu on the air!"

Mauritius, 3B8. Alex, IW5ELA, will be active as 3B8/IW5ELA from Hotel "Le Cannonier" between 6 and 12 September. Alex is part of a honeymoon trip with his wife Michela that will take him through Corsica, Mongolia, Finland and now Africa, so activity will be holiday style on the bands 20, 17, 15 and 12 metres using CW and SSB. He will use a FT-857 with 100 w into a vertical and operate mainly CW. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau. Visit his special Web page at http//: honeymoonafrica2012.jimdo.com

Madagascar, 5R. Moise, F4EZG, will once again be active as 5R8VE, but this time from Nosy Alanana (AF-090) in the Tamatave region between 1 and 3 September. Activity will only be on 20 and 15 metres. QSL via F4EZG.

Special Event Stations

Belgium. Eric, ON4LN, President RCL, informs that the members of the Radio Club Leuven (RCL) will celebrate their 85th anniversary this year. They will be active using the special call sign ON85RCL from their RCL club shack and proudly. Activity begun on 1 July and will last until 31 December. Operations will be on all bands (6 m if condition allow it) and on various modes. For more information, see QRZ.com under ON85RCL or ON4CP.

Denmark. In connection with the largest Scout and Guide Jamboree ever held in Denmark, a special event station with the call sign OZ12SJ will be - very - active during the period between

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?

21 to 29 July from Holstebro. Five "Jamboree on the Air" stations will be active on all bands. The activity includes many different JOTA activities within Amateur Radio and is supported by EDR, Eksperimenterende Danske Radioamatører, and members will be helping to activate and demonstrate the hobby to the Scouts. The activity also includes a license course and the option of actually taking a license test on site. The call sign is expected to be active in the DMC RTTY Contest, CQ WW VHF Contest and the RSGB IOTA Contest QSL via the Bureau.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 23 to 30 July 2012.

SKCC Sprint
00:00 - 02:00 UTC 25 July
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RST, name, state, province or country and SKCC no or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; Bonus Points: 5 points per Centurion member QSO per band; 10 points per Tribune member QSO per band; 25 points per QSO with SKCC club call (K9SKC) per band
Multipliers: Each state, province or country once
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 27 July 2012
E-mail log summary to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/sks-submit.html
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/

CWops Mini-CWT Test
13:00 – 14:00 UTC and 19:00 – 20:00 UTC 25 July and 03:00 – 04:00 UTC 26 July
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 0400Z 28 July 2012
Post log summary at: http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.cwops.org/onair.html

QRP Fox Hunt
01:00 - 02:30 UTC 27 July
Mode: CW
Bands: 20 m Only

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?

Classes: Single Op – fox or hound
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 28 July 2012
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/summer_rules.htm

NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:30 - 02:00 UTC 27 July
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 29 July 2012
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 27 July
Mode: (see rules)
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 29 July 2012
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

RSGB IOTA Contest
12:00 UTC 28 July to 12:00 UTC 29 July
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op 12 hrs - Island or World - CW, SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op 24 hrs - Island or World - CW, SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op Assisted 12 hrs - Island or World - CW, SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op Assisted 24 hrs - Island or World - CW, SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high; Multi-Op Island - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: RS(T), serial no and IOTA no (if applicable)
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: Each IOTA reference once per band per mode

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 19 August 2012
E-mail logs to: iota.logs@rsgbcc.org
Mail logs to: RSGB IOTA Contest, Radio Society of Great Britain, 3 Abbey Court, Fraser Road, Priory Business Park, Bedford MK44 3WH, England
Find rules at: http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2012/riota.shtml

US Counties QSO Party
14:00 - 24:00 UTC 28 July and 14:00 - 24:00 UTC 29 July
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Fixed - CW or SSB; Mobile - CW or SSB
Exchange: RS(T), state and county or "DX"
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: each US County once per mode
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 31 August 2012
E-mail logs to: w3dya@juno.com
Mail logs to: Norm Beavers, W3DYA, 3320 McMillan Dr., Tyler, TX 75701-8239, USA
Find rules at: http://marac.org/contests.htm

New Jersey QSO Party
16:00 UTC 28 July to 20:00 UTC 29 July
Mode: CW, Phone
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Multi-Op - QRP, low or high; Mobile/Rover/Portable - QRP or low; Rookie as overlay to any other class
Max power: HP: 150 W or greater; LP: <150 W; QRP: 5 W
Exchange: NJ: RS(T) and state and county; non-NJ: RS(T) and - state, province or DX
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; 100 bonus points for at least one QSO with K2TD
Multipliers: NJ Station: Each NJ county, state (other than NJ), VE province, 1 DX once; Non-NJ Station: each NJ County once
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 15 August 2012
E-mail logs to: njqp@comcast.net
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.njqp.hamshack.info/rules.htm

ARS Flight of the Bumblebees
17:00 – 21:00 UTC 29 July
Mode: CW
Bands: 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Home-Based; Bumblebee
Max power: 5 Watts
Exchange: Home: RST, state, province or country and power; Bumblebee: RST, state, province or country and Bumblebee no
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total Bumblebees x 3
Submit logs by: 1 August 2012
E-mail logs to: SpartanSprint@yahoo.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.arsqrp.blogspot.com/

Next Week's Contests

QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 3 August
NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 3 August
TARA Grid Dip Shindig, 00:00 - 24:00 UTC 4 August
10-10 International Summer SSB Contest, 00:01 UTC 4 August to 23:59 UTC 5 August
European HF Championship, 12:00 - 23:59 UTC 4 August
North American CW QSO Party, 18:00 UTC 4 August to 06:00 UTC 5 August
RSGB RoPoCo CW, 07:00 - 08:30 UTC 5 August
SARL HF Phone Contest,
ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 UTC-03:00 UTC 7 August

History This Week

A look back at events that made history this week - compiled by the Summerland Amateur Radio Club of Lismore, NSW and Dennis, ZS4BS. The week starting Monday 23 July 2012.

1775 - Benjamin Franklin becomes first US Postmaster General
1809 - First practical US railroad track (wooden, for horse-drawn cars), Philadelphia
1866 - Atlantic telegraph cable successfully laid - 2 713 km long
1866 - Metric system becomes a legal measurement system in US
1899 - First motorcycle race, Manhattan Beach, NY
1909 - Orville Wright tests first US Army airplane, flying 1 hour and 12 minutes
1944 - First jet fighter used in combat - Messerschmitt 262
1944 - First British jet fighter used in combat - Gloster Meteor
1983 - Official speed record for a piston-driven aircraft, 832 kph, California

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News and Southgate ARC

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?